

# *Love's Labour's Lost*

Act V, sc. 2 (line 89)

## **BOYET**

Under the cool shade of a sycamore  
I thought to close mine eyes some half an hour;  
When, lo! to interrupt my purposed rest,  
Toward that shade I might behold address  
The king and his companions: warily  
I stole into a neighbour thicket by,  
And overheard what you shall overhear,  
That, by and by, disguised they will be here.  
Their herald is a pretty knavish page,  
That well by heart hath conn'd his embassy:  
Action and accent did they teach him there;  
'Thus must thou speak,' and 'thus thy body bear.'  
And ever and anon they made a doubt  
Presence majestic would put him out,  
'For,' quoth the king, 'an angel shalt thou see;  
Yet fear not thou, but speak audaciously.'  
The boy replied, 'An angel is not evil;  
I should have fear'd her had she been a devil.'  
With that, all laugh'd and clapp'd him on the shoulder,  
Making the bold wag by their praises bolder:  
One rubb'd his elbow thus, and fleer'd and swore

A better speech was never spoke before;  
Another, with his finger and his thumb,  
Cried, 'Via! we will do't, come what will come;'  
The third he caper'd, and cried, 'All goes well;'  
The fourth turn'd on the toe, and down he fell.  
With that, they all did tumble on the ground,  
With such a zealous laughter, so profound,  
That in this spleen ridiculous appears,  
To cheque their folly, passion's solemn tears.